

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 SSC-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 /074 W

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R 150939Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6180

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A T MOSCOW 0546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, LY

SUBJ: NEW LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW

1. AT SPASO HOUSE FILM SHOWING FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, JANUARY 13, LIBYAN EMBASSY WAS UNEXPECTEDLY REPRESENTED BY NEWLY ARRIVED AMBASSADOR ABDUL WAHAB MOHAMED EL-ZINDANY. AMBASSADOR ZINDANY'S ARRIVAL, PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO US OR APPARENTLY TO MOST MEMBERS OF THE CORPS OTHER THAN THE ARAB AMBASSADORS, WAS NOT ANNOUNCED IN THE SOVIET PRESS.

2. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, ZINDANY SIAD TRIPOLI'S DECISION TO UPGRADE ITS MOSCOW EMBASSY (MISSION HAS BEEN HEADED BY A CHARGE FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS) STEMMED FROM PRIME MINISTER JALLUD'S "SUCCESSFUL" VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST MAY. AND A LIBYAN DECISION TO ESTABLISH A "MORE NORMAL" RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USSR. THE AMBASSADOR OBLIQUELY INDICATED THAT HE ANTICIPATES INCREASED SOVIET-LIBYAN BILATERAL CONTACTS AS PART OF THIS DEVELOPMENT BY COMMENTING THAT HE EXPECTS

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HIS EMBASSY STAFF TO INCREASE "QUITE A BIT" IN THE NEAR

FUTURE. ZINDANY HAS NOT YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS
AND SAID HE HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED WHEN HE WILL DO SO.

3. AMBASSADOR ZINDANY APPEARED FRIENDLY AND TALKATIVE
DURING WHAT APPARENTLY WAS HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH MOST OF THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE APOLOGIZED FOR NOT HAVING CALLED ON
ME AND SEEMED WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE AMERICANS PRESENT
AT THE RECEPTION. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND FRENCH.
HE RECALLED HAVING VISITED THE U.S. IN 1963 FOR A FEW
MONTHS DURING WHICH HE EVIDENTLY TOURED EXTENSIVELY.
ZINDANY IS MARRIED AND HAS SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN. HE SAID
HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN WILL JOIN HIM IN MOSCOW IN A FEW
MONTHS.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE
BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON AMBASSADOR ZINDANY FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY TRIPOLI.
STOESSEL

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